Numb. 4355

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Monday July 28. to Thursday July 31. 1707.

Barcelona, June 29. N. S.

THE Enemy's Forces are divided into Three Bodies; One of which, conſiſting of about 3000 Men, have been for theſe Two Months paſt encamp'd near Tortoſa, upon the Ebro, and all the Progreſs they have made in this Time is the taking of a ſmall Ravelin which guarded the Bridge on their ſide. The Town can be no ways annoy'd by it, and is now in a good Poſture of Defence; ſo 'tis thought the Enemy will abandon their Deſign on that Place, and march to join their main Body, which is encamp'd at Fraga upon the River Cinca, to the Number of 26000 Horſe and Foot, as they report. They made an Attempt to paſs that River in ſome open Boats laſt Week, but were repuls'd with conſiderable Loſs. Deſerters tell us, They are expecting heavy Cannon, and Pontoons to form a Bridge. Lerida, our Frontier Gariſon, is about Four Leagues from Fraga: It hath a good Caſtle, ſituated on the River Segra, and will have a ſtrong Gariſon to defend it; which Difficulties the Enemy muſt overcome before they can enter this Province. The Third Body hath been imploy'd in the Kingdom of Valentia, where they have made themſelves Maſters of Xariva and Alzira; but the Gariſons have obtain'd an honourable Capitulation. Their next Attempt on that ſide muſt be on Denia, where General Ramos is Governor: We have Reaſon to believe it will be dearly purchas'd, ſince the Port is open, and can be daily ſupply'd with Men and Proviſions.

Toulon, July 17. Our Gariſon, which is already very ſtrong, is daily reinforc'd by freſh Troops; and we expect with great Impatience the Marſhal de Teſſé, who, we hear, is marching towards us at the Head of 12000 Men. We very much depend on the Marines that are in the Place, and amount to 2000 effective Men. The Officers are giving Orders for taking down the Maſts of all the King's Ships, and ſending away their Rigging to Arles; not being able to ſail off with the Ships themſelves for want of Hands to work them. Eight Gallies and Six Men of War, of 100 Guns each, without Maſts or Rigging, are planted at the Entrance of the Road. The Batteries of Cannon on the Eminencies round the Town, and on the ſeveral Points of Land which command the Paſſage into the Harbour, are in good Order, and a Readineſs for Service. We have ſounded both the Port and the Road, but find in neither of them a ſufficient Depth of Water for ſinking the Ships in Caſe of Neceſſity. Since the Action on the Var, we hear the Confederate Fleet are under ſail, and the Duke of Savoy's Army in a full March for this Place; ſo that we now no longer doubt of their Deſign to beſiege us both by Sea and Land. This hath obliged us to call in moſt of the Waggons of the Province, and the Barks belonging to Arles, in order to remove ſuch Stores and Ammunition as the Shortneſs of Time will permit. We are fortifying the Gate of St. Lazarus, and have almoſt finiſh'd that Work; and are labouring at the ſame time with great Diligence on a Cover'd Way to the advanc'd Works, and a deep Trench from Saint Marguerite to Mount Condoſm. At Marſeilles they are already emptying their Magazines, and carrying off all ſuch Proviſions as are not neceſſary for their Security; and at Aix they have taken timely Care to ſend away the Archives of the Kingdom to Avignon. The Intendants of Marſeilles and Toulon have with much Difficulty borrow'd 150000 Crowns, to contribute towards the extraordinary Expences we are at in the Defence of each of theſe Places. We hear the Enemy have bombarded Antibes in a moſt dreadful manner.

Lions, July 22. Of the Troops which were falling down the Saone from Chalon to this Place, 70 Men deſerted in a Body, carrying away their Arms with them: Of which our Commander in chief having Intelligence, he ſent a Party of 20 Horſe after them, who met them on an open Plain. The Deſerters ſeeing them at a Diſtance, and being apprehenſive of their Deſign, ſtood their Ground, and upon their Approach fir'd on them with ſuch Succeſs, that it is ſaid not One of them eſcap'd. We are here in an unſpeakable Anxiety for Toulon, being very apprehenſive that the Marſhal de Teſſé cannot arrive there before the Duke of Savoy. Letters from Marſeilles of the 18th inform us, That his Royal Highneſs was marching directly for that Place; but give us ſome Hopes, That if he cou'd not inveſt it before the 25th, our ſeveral Detachments would come up ſoon enough to oppoſe him.

Berne, July 20. Deputies are arriv'd here from the County of Vallangin, to deſire this Canton to interpoſe in their Favour, that they may have their Repreſentatives in the Tribunal of Neufchatel, which is to determine the Succeſſion to that Principality, or that they may not be included by their Sentence: To which they have receiv'd a favourable Anſwer in general Terms. The Tribunal is to be open'd on the 18th: In the mean time the ſeveral Competitors are very induſtrious in promoting their reſpective Intereſts. The Prince of Conti, who arriv'd at Neufchatel on the 12th Inſtant, is clearing his Way to the Election, by demanding Relief againſt a Sentence of the States in 1694, by which the County was declar'd unalienable. This Judgment, unleſs repeal'd, invalidates all the Pretenſions of that Prince, who claims the Sovereignty by a Will of the Abbot of Orleans, immediate Predeceſſor to Madam de Nemours. We ſhall be able to judge of his Highneſs's Intereſt among the Electors by the Anſwer they return to this his Demand. A Letter of the Marquis de Torcy, wherein he expreſſes the Reſentments of the French King towards the Inhabitants of that Place if they admit a Stranger in Competition with his Subjects, having been induſtriouſly ſpread amongſt the People, and other Artifices made uſe of to induce them to make Choice of a Frenchman; the Count de Metternich hath acquainted the Magiſtracy, That the King his Maſter will be ſupported by the whole Alliance in the Juſtice of his Pretenſions. Accordingly Mr. Stanyan, the Envoy of the Queen of Great Britain to the Proteſtant Cantons, is repairing thither to recommend the Claim of His Pruſſian Majeſty to a fair and impartial Hearing. Monſieur Rorchel, the Dutch Envoy, hath Inſtructions from the States General to the ſame Effect. There are likewiſe Letters from the Emperor to the Regency of that Place, to diſpoſe them in favour of the King of Pruſſia.

Leipſick, July 27. Count Wratiſlaw, the Emperor's chief Miniſter of State, arrived here Yeſterday with a Commiſſion from His Imperial Majeſty to endeavour the removing all Miſunderſtandings that interrupt the good Correſpondence between the Swediſh Court and that of Vienna; which he hopes to effect by the Mediation of the Queen of Great Britain and the States General. Four Regiments of the Swediſh Cavalry, having retreated from the Muſcovites in the Lower Luſatia, have taken their Quarters in Silelia; which hath not a little alarm'd the Inhabitants of that Country: But the Swedes having excus'd themſelves for ſo doing by the want of Proviſions for their Support in Saxony, and promiſing to obſerve an exact Diſcipline in their Quarters, all Fears of any ill Conſequences thereupon are vaniſh'd. Our laſt Advices from the Frontiers of Poland inform us, That the Muſcovites who block up the Town of Poſen had detach'd ſome of their Troops to burn and pillage the Lands belonging to King Staniſlaus and his Adherents. We hear from Lublin, That ſince the Publication of the *Interregnum*, the Czar preſs'd with great Impatience for a new Election, which would not be delay'd much longer, if the Swediſh Troops did not come up and put a Stop to thoſe Proceedings.

Paris, July 29. N. S. Letters from our General Officers in Provence bring very different Accounts of our Affairs in thoſe Parts; ſome giving all for loſt, and others ſpeaking with as much Aſſurance of our Safety: But we hear the Marſhal de Teſſé himſelf writes with great Diffidence on that Subject. The Prejudices which the Officers and Soldiers have conceiv'd againſt that General, give us a melancholy Proſpect of what we are to expect from 'em under his Conduct. The Duke of Burgundy and Prince Vaudemont have with great Earneſtneſs beſeech'd the King to name ſome other General for that Command; but His Majeſty did not think fit to diſcover to them his Sentiments on that Occaſion. The Marſhal will have under him Monſieur de Bezons, Count d'Aubeterre, Monſieur Dillon, and Monſieur de Guebriant; all Perſons of great Experience and Reputation. Five thouſand Men have been at work on the Fortifications of Toulon for theſe Three Weeks. They have demoliſh'd the Suburbs, with